



THE NEW SOUTH.

PORT ROYAL, SAT., DEC. 27, 1862.

The Feeling at the North.

The tone of the Northern Press regarding the terrible slaughter of our brave soldiers which recently took place at Fredericksburg, in the desperate, and we might almost say, foolhardy attempt to dislodge the rebels from their impregnable strongholds, is bitter and severe upon the Administration at Washington, by whose blundering and interference it was brought about. That General Burnside was forced to cross the Rappahannock and make this hopeless attack against his own better judgment is as much beyond a doubt, as is the fact that the delays to which he was subjected by the tardiness of incompetent officials at Washington in forwarding the pontoon bridges, checked his progress, and by allowing the rebels abundance of time to concentrate their forces, and entrench themselves at Fredericksburg, entirely overhrew plans, which gave every promise of success. While, however, the onus of this dreadful sacrifice of life is laid upon the Administration and the drivelling officials who help to manage the affairs of our government, common consent appears not only to hold General Burnside blameless of the results, but attaches a vast deal of credit to the consummate generalship displayed in extricating himself "without the loss of a single man or a gun," from a most perilous position, and one into which he had been impelled by the imbecility of his superiors. In performing the difficult feat of recrossing a river in the face of a victorious foe and evacuating a position, the occupation of which for twelve hours longer would undoubtedly have been attended with the most disastrous results to our cause, General Burnside, we take it, has exhibited military abilities fully equal, if not superior, to those of the most successful general that opposes him. He has accomplished a military exploit excelling even the escape of the rebel army from Maryland after the battle of Antietam, which was so galling to us, and such a boast to the rebels. That our troops showed the most admirable bravery and determination is conceded by all, even the rebels themselves, and it removes all sting of disgrace to know that those noble men fell on the field bravely facing the enemy and were not slaughtered in an ignominious retreat. While glorying in the heroism of our troops, none can feel surprise at the torrent of lamentations and reproaches which this useless sacrifice of them has wrung from the people of the North. They are no longer silent and passive under this last carnival of blood, but reproaches, loud and deep are thundering at the doors of the Administration, threatening a whirlwind of popular indignation, which they dare no longer resist.

NEWS FROM THE NORTH.

The *Str. Delaware*, Capt. Cannon, from New York, arrived here on the 24th inst.; and on the 25th the *Str. Star of the South*, Capt. Woodhull. When off Beaufort, N. C. on the 24th inst., the *Star of the South* transferred her mail and troops for Newbern to the steam tug *Stag*. The *Stag* is bound from New York to this port and put into Beaufort N. C. for coal. By the *Star of the South* we have New York dates to the 21st inst. The news received is important, but what our previous dates had led us to expect. A most desperate attack has been made upon the rebel intrenchments at Fredericksburg which has proved unsuccessful, and Gen. Burnside has been obliged to withdraw his forces across the Rappahannock. Following we give a short account of the

EVACUATION OF FREDERICKSBURG.

After a most desperate attempt to dislodge the rebels from their strong holds at Fredericksburg, in which we have suffered a loss of 10,000 men killed and wounded, the army of the Potomac, evacuated their position and re-crossed the Rappahannock on Monday night the 15th inst., and the relative positions of the opposing forces are now the same as on Wednesday of last week. The movement was a perilous one, but it was conducted in safety and in the midst of a heavy wind and rain storm which served to screen it from the enemy—who never discovered the movement until it was too late to do any harm. The artillery was the first to cross over the river and the last of the infantry brought up the rear shortly after daylight. As soon as the last man had got safely across the river the pontoon bridges were removed and communication between the two shores thus cut off. Our wounded were all safely brought over. The movement was well executed and from beginning to end was a complete success. All three of the crossings were used, making six bridges. Gen. Franklin's Grand Division occupying the extreme left, began to move as soon as it was dark, and the right and centre of Gens. Sumner and Hooker took up the line of march almost simultaneously, moving in good order, but silently away from under the very guns of the enemy. A heavy gale of wind, which blew all sound away from the rebel lines, greatly facilitated the movement. Bridges were covered with earth, to deaden the sound of the moving artillery, and a dark night hid every object from view. Two brigades, belonging to Gen. Butterfield's corps, occupy the town as advanced pickets. Our artillery, placed on the higher bank of the river, will cooperate in keeping possession of the town.

On Tuesday morning the 16th inst., when daylight appeared the enemy seemed to be, as they no doubt were, perfectly astonished that our army had succeeded in recrossing the Rappahannock river, a movement accomplished without the loss of a single man or a gun. The pickets on our outposts were unaware of the movement we were making until just before daylight, when an officer went to each individual man, and in a low tone of voice ordered him to fall back. After they got sufficiently far away to be out of danger, they were ordered to quicken their pace and reach the bridges as quickly as possible. A few soldiers, who had straggled off, made their appearance on the river bank, after the pontoon bridges had been removed, but they were subsequently brought over safely in small boats.

About nine o'clock in the morning the enemy advanced their skirmishers along their entire line, and by noon had established their pickets near the bank of the river.

On Monday the pickets of the contending armies fronting the left wing, mutually agreed upon an "armistice" among themselves, and freely intermingled with each other, exchanging their dead friends and comrades who lay on a neutral ground. About this time Gen. Franklin dispatched a flag of truce, which the enemy immediately recognized, and the exchange of dead bodies was resumed and continued until completed.

On Tuesday Gen. Lee sent a flag of truce to Gen. Burnside, asking him to detail men to bury his dead in front of Gen. Sumner's Grand Division. This was done.

Our entire army is now encamped on the same ground which they previously occupied. It has been considerably reinforced since the battle, and no danger whatever attaches to our present position.

During the night the enemy increased their intrenchments on the terraces in the rear of Fredericksburg, and threw up rifle-pits near the river, on the left of the city. Our troops are in excellent condition, and as enthusiastic as previous to the late engagements. On Wednesday the 17th inst., the rebels sent under a flag of truce, a request that we would bury our dead. A burying party accordingly went over, and continued their labors until the next day. During the truce Col. Walton, Chief of Longstreet's artillery, informed some of our officers that the rebel infantry force engaged on Sumner's front on Saturday, was only two brigades, but that they had a large reserve near by. He said our men exhibited the greatest bravery, but he considered the rebel position impregnable, and that a force of 500,000 would find it impossible to carry the heights in the face of their batteries. The rebel loss was small, compared with ours, from the fact that they were protected by a stonewall and rifle-pits. The enemy took nearly 300 prisoners from us—a considerable portion of whom were absent from their camps when we evacuated the south side of the river. The prisoners taken on both sides have been paroled.

The reasons for the withdrawal of the army are thus clearly given in a dispatch from General Burnside.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
December 16th—6 P. M.

Maj. Gen. Halleck, Commander-in-Chief:

The Army of the Potomac was withdrawn to this side of the Rappahannock River, because I felt fully convinced that the position in front could not be carried, and it was a military necessity either to attack the enemy or retire. A repulse would have been disastrous to us under existing circumstances.

The army was withdrawn at night without the knowledge of the enemy, and without loss, either of property or men. AMBROSE E. BURNSIDE,
Major-General Commanding.

THE BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG.

The following brief extract is made from the account of the battle written by the correspondent of the *N. Y. Times*, under date of the 15th inst.:

The battle of Fredericksburg, which has been raging since 10 o'clock this morning without a moments pause, was closed by darkness to-night. In its duration, its intensity, if not also, in the losses it has occasioned, it caps the climax of the whole series of the battles of the campaign. The nation will stand aghast at the terrible price which has been paid for its life when the realities of the battle-field of Fredericksburg are spread before it.

Unhappily, like many of our engagements, though serving to illustrate the splendid valor of our troops it has failed to accomplish the object sought. The sequel alone can tell whether the work of to-day is to be the prelude to a glorious victory or an ignominious defeat. But the result thus far leaves us with a loss of from ten to fifteen thousand men, and absolutely nothing gained. Along the whole line the rebels hold their own. Again and again we have hurled forward our masses on their position. At each time the hammer was broken on the anvil!

NORTH CAROLINA.

—The rebel General—Evans—who was in command at Kinston, on the 14th inst., telegraphed to the rebel War Department that Gen. Foster had attacked the place with 15,000 men and nine gunboats, and that, after a ten hours fight, the National forces were repulsed. He took care to say, however, that Gen. Foster was still "in his front."

We learn from Capt. Cannon, of the *Str. Delaware* which left Beaufort N. C. on the 23d inst., that it is reported there that General Foster had defeated the rebels at Kinston and driven them to Goldsboro, where they received reinforcements and General Foster was repulsed with a loss of four hundred men. Gen. Foster's object was to gain possession of Goldsboro in order to command the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad and cut off this communication between Richmond and the South. Gen'l. Foster reports that he has captured 500 prisoners and 11 pieces of Artillery at Kinston.

—The destination and objects of the Bank's Expedition have at last been made public, the *Herald* of the 21st inst. says:

"Its destination is New Orleans, and one of its objects is to put General Banks in command of the department of which that city is the headquarters, and to remove General Butler, who by various acts had rendered himself unpopular with many of the citizens, and had also created difficulties with the representatives and subjects of foreign governments."

Having established himself at New Orleans as a centre, General Banks will proceed at his leisure to capture Mobile and establish communication between that point and the Crescent City. He will command a force of seventy thousand men, and make attacks in various directions. A main object of the expedition is to counteract the supposed projects of the Emperor of the French in Mexico and the Southern States."

A CABINET CRISIS.—The *N. Y. Herald* says: Mr. Seward—acting under the pressure of the leading radicals of the Senate in caucus assembled—has closed his portfolio as Secretary of State, and respectfully tendered his resignation to the President. This step may be but the initiatory one towards a total reconstruction of the Cabinet—a measure for which the public mind is not wholly unprepared.

Gen. Halleck will probably be removed. It is rumored in Washington that General Burnside has tendered his resignation as commander of the Army of the Potomac, but the rumor does not receive full credence.

It is generally rumored in the West that Gen. Sherman, who has been so long in command at Memphis, is to head the expedition down the Mississippi instead of Gen. McClelland. Gen. Sherman took leave of his corps at Oxford, Miss., on Dec. 9 and but one division of it returned with him to Memphis.